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ABSTRACT

Updating a 1984 publication, this bibliography lists and briefly annotates 35 selected books (published from 1957 to 1987) about the censorship of sexual materials from ancient times to the present. A list of five reference sources is included for those who wish to add materials from periodicals. (SR)

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CENSORSHIP OF SEXUAL MATERIALS

A Selected, Annotated Basic Bibliography

Prepared by

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May 1990

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This is a bibliography of books about the censorship of sexual materials from ancient times to the present. Those who wish to add materials from periodicals are referred to the standard periodical indexes, and to these reference volumes: Ralph E. McCoy, Freedom of the Press: An Annotated Bibliography (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1968); Ralph E. McCoy, Freedom of the Press: A Bibliocyclopedia, Ten Year Supplement (1967-1977)(Carbondale Southern Illinois University Press, 1978); and Greg Byerly and Rick Rubin, Pornography, the Conflict over Sexually Explicit Materials in the United States: An Annotated Bibliography (New York: Garland, 1980). Also, the search for essays should include the Free Speech Yearbook, published annually since 1970 by the Speech Communication Association; and the search for current events should include the bi-monthly Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom, published by the American Library Association (50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611).

Attorney General's Commission on Pornography: Final Report. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, 1986. This report concludes what it set out to "prove," namely, that "pornography" is harmful and should be banned. In response, see the entries that follow by Lynn, and Nobile and Nadler.

Berns, Walter. Freedom, Virtue and the First Amendment. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1957. Berns argues that the Supreme Court should judge artistic expression by some test other than clear-and-present danger; otherwise, "virtue" will not be adequately protected.

Bosmajian, Haig A., ed. Obscenity and Freedom of Expression. New York: Burt Franklin and Co., 1976. This comprehensive compendium of court cases begins with Hicklin (England, 1868) and journeys to Miller (U.S. 1973). The editor includes cases of "obscenity" in books, pictures, film, theatre, broadcasting, political speech, and the schools.

Boyer, Paul S. Purity in Print: The Vice-Society Movement and Book Censorship in America. New York: Charles Scribner's and Sons, 1968. This well-documented work surveys the history of censorship in America from the beginning of the vice society movement of the mid-nineteenth century to the 1930's.

Chandos, John, ed. "To Deprave and Corrupt": Original Studies in the Nature and Definition of "Obscenity." New York: Association Press, 1962. Chandos has edited an excellent collection of original essays, including a range of views both for and against censorship.

Cline, Victor B., ed. Where Do You Draw the Line? Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1974. Twenty writers give their reasons for favoring the censorship of "pornography." Includes Irving Kristol's "The Case for Liberal Censorship," and Ernest van den Haag's "Democracy and Pornography."

Clor, Harry M. Obscenity and Public Morality: Censorship in a Liberal Society. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1969. Clor presents a serious argument in favor of the censorship of "obscenity." His study includes an interesting effort to define "obscenity."

Comstock, Anthony. Traps for the Young. Edited by Robert Brenner. Cambridge: Belnap Press of Harvard University Press, 1967. (Reprint of the original edition published in 1883.) Anthony Comstock, author of

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the federal mail-censorship statute of 1873, makes his emotional case for the suppression of "immoral literature" and other "vices" in this quaint publication--a fascinating artifact from the history of censorship in America.

Craig, Alex. Suppressed Books: A History of the Conception of Literary Obscenity. Cleveland: World Publishing Co., 1963. Craig searches for the origin of "obscenity" as a legal doctrine in England, then traces the rise of the law of "obscenity" and how it was--and still is--applied in England and the United States.

Donnerstein, Edward I. The Question of Pornography: Research Findings and Policy Implications. New York: Free Press 1987. As the title suggests, this work reports research findings concerning the effect of sexual materials on persons, and some policy implications that emerge from those findings.

Dworkin, Andrea. Pornography: Men Possessing Women. New York: Putnam, 1981. Dworkin argues that pornography is sexist and contributes to male violence against women.

Ernst, Morris L., and Schwartz, Alan U. Censorship: The Search for the Obscene. New York: Macmillan, 1964. The authors, both of whom are lawyers, have written a history and analysis of the "obscenity" controversy from pre-Comstock to post-Roth.

Gardiner, Harold G. Catholic Viewpoint on Censorship. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1958. Father Gardiner's book is a widely-quoted "standard" volume on why Catholics believe that censorship of sexual materials is justified.

Goldstein, Michael, and Kant, Harold. Pornography and Sexual Deviance. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1973. This book reports the results of a research project on the causal relationship between erotica and anti-social behavior; it concludes that there is little evidence to show that reading or viewing sexual materials causes one to act uncivilized.

Haight, Ann Lyon. Banned Books, 4th ed. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1978. Haight's chronological list of suppressed books, while not exhaustive, covers typical censorship cases from 387 B.C. into the 1970's. It is excellent for quick reference and for a general overview of the subject.

Haney, Robert W. Comstockery in America: Patterns of Censorship and Control. Boston: Beacon Press, 1960. Censorship opponent Haney wrote this book in reply to Gardiner's Catholic Viewpoint on Censorship.

Hart, Harold H., ed. Censorship: For and Against. New York: Hart Publishing Co., 1971. Hart's collection of twelve essays on the censorship of sex includes pro and con viewpoints of well-known writers.

Haselden, Kyle. Morality and the Mass Media. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1968. Baptist Haselden presents a "protestant viewpoint" on censorship, reaching a conclusion that juveniles should be protected but that adults, by and large, should be permitted to make free choices.

Holbrook, David, ed. The Case Against Pornography. LaSalle, IL: The Library Press, 1973. Holbrook's collection includes essays by psychiatrists, psychotherapists, academicians, novelists, critics, and journalists--all of whom argue that "pornography" is a threat to civilization.

Hughes, Douglas A., ed. Perspectives on Pornography. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1970. Hughes has edited a collection of fourteen essays by "distinguished novelists and critics" on the subject of "pornography." The essays focus upon the written word.

Kendrick, Walter. The Secret Museum: Pornography in Modern Culture. New York: Viking, 1987. A careful historical study of the censorship of sexual materials in England and the U.S. The author concludes that censorship campaigns are not worth the effort.

Lynn, Barry W. Polluting the Censorship Debate: A Summary and Critique of the Final Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. Washington, D.C.: American Civil Liberties Union, 1986. An analysis and rebuttal to the 1986 report of the "Meese" Commission on pornography.

Malamuth, Neil M., and Donnerstein, Edward. Pornography and Sexual Aggression. Orlando, Fla.: Academic Press, 1984. Malamuth and Donnerstein report research on the question of a link between pornography and anti-social behavior.

Marcus, Steven. The Other Victorians: A Study of Sexuality and Pornography in Mid-Nineteenth-Century England. New York: Basic Books, 1966. This history and criticism of the literary sub-culture of Victorian England was the first of the Kinsey Institute's series of studies in sex and society. Scholarly and well written, it helps to explain contemporary Comstockery.

Nobile, Philip, and Nadler, Eric. United States of America v. Sex: How the Meese Commission Lied About Pornography. New York: Minotaur Press, 1986. A criticism of the methods of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, and a rebuttal to the conclusions reached by that Commission.

Obeler, Eli M. The Fear of the Word: Censorship and Sex. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1974. Obeler's carefully-documented study is a history of the cultural influences which have led Western society to suppress sexual literature. The author deals in detail with the "sex-is-sin" view of Christianity.

Paul, James C. N., and Schwartz, Murray L. Federal Censorship: Obscenity in the Mail. New York: The Free Press of Glencoe, Inc., 1961. The authors have written a history and analysis of the efforts of the U.S. Government to censor "obscenity" in the mails. They include a discussion of the effects of postal censorship upon individual freedom.

Randall, Richard S. Censorship of the Movies: The Social and Political Control of a Mass Medium. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1968. Randall covers film censorship in the U.S. through the mid-1960s. He then analyzes social and political issues, discussing types of control--from criminal prosecution to self-regulation.

Rembar, Charles. The End of Obscenity. New York: Random House, 1968. (Paperback edition, Bantam Books, 1969). Attorney Rembar has written an account of his successful defense of Lady Chatterley's Lover, Tropic of Cancer, and Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure. Defense strategies and arguments are carefully explained.

The Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970. This report includes the recommendations of the majority of Commissioners that consenting adults be allowed to make their own decisions about explicit sexual materials, without government interference. The minority dissent is included.

Rist, Ray C., ed. The Pornography Controversy. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Books, 1975. Rist's collection of fourteen essays presents a variety of views on the censorship of "obscenity."

Schroeder, Theodore. "Obscene" Literature and Constitutional Law. New York: Da Capo Press, 1972. (Reprint of the original edition of 1911.) Schroeder, an opponent of Anthony Comstock and censorship, gives his rebuttal to Comstock's arguments and sets out one of this century's first book-length libertarian views on freedom to disseminate sexual materials.

Scott, George Ryler. "Into Whose Hands": An Examination of Obscene Libel in its Legal, Sociological and Literary Aspects. London: Gerald G. Swan, 1945. Scott's classic analysis and criticism of British censorship is "must reading" for serious students of freedom of expression. The author includes history, cases, and arguments for and against. Chapter 11 concerns censorship in the United States.

Sharp, Donald B., ed. Commentaries on Obscenity. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, 1970. Sharp's anthology surveys legal censorship in the United States through 1969, then presents sixteen essays by legal scholars. The editor gives particular attention to the conviction of Ralph Ginzburg (1966).

Yaffe, Maurice, and Nelson, Edward C., eds. The Influence of Pornography on Behavior. London: Academic Press, 1982. British psychologists Yaffe and Nelson have collected ten essays, each by a professional in fields such as psychiatry, social work, and law, concerning the question of how explicit sexual materials affect human conduct.